Boosting sale of DMS Milk

351. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of milk in polypacks returned to Delhi Milk Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the additional expenditure incurred in reprocessing of these polypacks;

(c) whether the sale of milk had decreased as a result of increase in prices and if so, the action taken to reduce it and boosting the sale; and

(d) the distribution losses reported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The year-wise percentage of returned milk for the last three years *i.e.* 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 is 7.6 per cent, 8.64 per cent and 3.88 per cent respectively.

(b) The expenditure incurred in reprocessing of returned polypacks was approximately Rs. 4.2 crores for the last three years.

(c) Yes, Sir. The sale of milk had decreased as a result of increase in prices with effect from 1st March, 2003. However, action has been taken to boost the sale of milk including conversion of Depots into All Day Milk Stalls, operation of abandoned milk booths and face lifting of existing milk stalls.

(d) The distribution losses for the last three years, *i.e.* 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 were Rs. 84.91 lacs, Rs. 95.57 lacs and Rs. 43.34 lacs respectively.

Shortage of milk in Delhi

352. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was an acute shortage of milk in Delhi during last August;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, especially in view of higher yield of milk by the milk animals in the area around Delhi during monsoon which was above average this year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the capital does not face shortage of milk in future, particularly during the festival season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason for shortage of milk in Delhi and some other cities was attributed to the acute drought conditions prevailing continuously during last three years in various states, which resulted in delay and poor calving of milch animals and also shortage of feed and fodder. The shortage of milk was faced more in Delhi on account of upsurge in the demand due to festivals beginning from August, 2003.

(c) Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture had called meetings with representatives of all State Governments/ Federations/NDDB and arranged supply of milk powder and white butter for Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy who are major suppliers of milk in Delhi. As a result of various measures taken by Government of India, the availability of milk in Delhi improved and no shortage of milk was felt during the Diwali festival. At present, there is no shortage of milk in Delhi and situation is going to be still more comfortable during December, 2003 and January, 2004.

Agriculture Technology Information Centres in U.P.

353. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Agriculture Technology Information Centres set up in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incured by Government for the above purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide training to farmers about the new technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has set up four Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) in Uttar Pradesh, one each at Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur; Narendra